

Home Safety Checklist

Home emergencies and tragedies don't happen by coincidence or because of bad luck, they happen: *When they are given an op-por-tun-ity.* Think about that for a second...now stack the deck in your favor with these practical tips from Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services, and eliminate those opportunities.

The following tips are simple and inexpensive (or free) but will greatly enhance your safety, and are good things to keep in mind as you travel along the road of life. It is always the right time to eliminate hazards, and learn what you may have been overlooking. This list has some of the most common mistakes.



1. Beware of Old and/or Defective Wiring

- ☐ Electrical wires can deteriorate over time, and may no longer meet safety standards (don't overload)
- ☐ Be on the lookout for loose connections (lights & outlets that flicker or spark)

2. Be Careful With Extension Cords and Powerstrips

- ☐ THESE SHOULD **NOT** BE USED ON A PERMANENT BASIS (+/- a week)
- ☐ Cords should also NOT run through walls or doorways (they can fray/wear)
- ☐ Overloading outlets or power strips can cause a fire

3. Replace or Repair Old Appliances and Cords

- ☐ Beware of brittle or damaged cords and plugs (exposed wires/crumbling plugs)
- ☐ Smartphone, tablet and laptop cords take a lot of abuse/damage (moved and used a lot)

4. Beware of Children and Appliances

Children are often unaware of dangers, so make sure to:

- ☐ Take measures to prevent them from placing fingers or objects in outlets (remove clutter, use outlet protectors)
- ☐ Do not leave items that can be pulled down, and cause damage or injury (irons, other appliances with cords hanging)

5. Avoid Do-It-Yourself Fixes

- ☐ Do NOT overfuse (DO NOT put a 20A fuse in a 15A space, or solid metal)
- ☐ Exposed wires or boxes are signs of unqualified installation (open junction boxes, service panels or connections)
- ☐ Electrical wiring should ONLY be installed by a qualified electrician

6. Be Careful around Water

- ☐ Injury or death can occur when electrical appliances are used too close to water (sink, bathtub)
- ☐ Standing in a puddle or operating electrical items with wet hands can also be hazardous

7. Carelessness Can Kill

- ☐ Making some repairs on your own can result in fire, injury or death
- ☐ Get a qualified and licensed electrician for an inspection, repair or upgrade (you'll be glad you did)
- ☐ Never leave a space heater "on" if you are not home



- ## 8. Fire Prevention

- ## 9. Smoke Alarms

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- A collection of colorful illustrations related to fire safety. It includes a red fire helmet, a large yellow and orange flame, a red fire truck with a ladder, a red fire extinguisher with a white label, a small house with a fire on its roof, and a fire alarm bell.

- ❑ **Landlord Training**, visit:
Milwaukee.gov/LandlordTraining
for dates and other information, or
call (414) 286-2954
- ❑ **Rent for Success** (Tenant
Training) visit:
Milwaukee.gov/Rent, or
call (414) 286-8122

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Here are some helpful resources and phone numbers if you have any questions:

- Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services
(414) 286-2268
- Milwaukee Fire Department, Non-Emergencies
(414) 286-8948
- MFD Smoke Alarm Hotline
(414) 286-8980
- Does It Need A Permit?
milwaukee.gov/Information-and-Services/obtainLicensesPermit

